



THE WECAGRAM

Newsletter of the
Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc.

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Serving the Public through Amateur Radio and Serving Amateurs since 1972

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May, 2002

New Slate of WECA Officers and Directors Announced for 2002-03

Nominating Committee chairman Mike Arrow, K2NR and his committee colleagues Nick Gallo, K2ZVI and Bob Steinberg, WA2KHR, are pleased to announce a slate of nominees for WECA positions in the upcoming year:

President	Bob Muller	KC2FYZ
Executive VP	Russ Stevenson	N2AMP
Genl Counsel	Michael Weitzner	N2EJI
Treasurer	Andy Farber	N4OOX
Secretary	Milt Galamison	KC2GWK
Trustee	Paul Vydareny	WB2VUK
Digital Modes	Rich Benda	WB2QJA
Public Service	Robert Kantor	N2TSE
Membership	Ron Devenuti	N2TJE
Public Relations	Efrem Acosta	W2CZ
Newsletter	Lyle Anderson	K2LCA
Education	Jeffrey Steinberg	K2MIT
Emerg. Svcs.	Tom Raffaelli	WB2NHC

The Committee brings to the membership's attention the standing for election this year of the Education Director, which is normally not elected in even-numbered years. This position is open in 2002 because of the resignation of Efrem W2CZ in favor of his candidacy for the Public Relations Director position this year.

The Committee also wishes the membership to note the addition of three new candidates this year, including two members who have joined the club within the past two years: Lyle K2LCA and Jeffrey K2MIT. The Committee thanks the new candidates for offering to serve WECA alongside the devoted officers and directors who have given years of service to the club.

Additional nominations will continue to be accepted through the close of the May membership meeting on May 13. Contested positions will be balloted and all results will be announced at the June meeting on June 10.

DON'T FORGET: WECAFest Returns June 2 to Saxon Woods Park, White Plains

PRB-1 Tower Effort Gains in NY State

Pre-emptive tower height legislation, which will prevent undue regulation of tower heights by local governments, is advancing in Albany. Jerry Agliata, W2GLA, an amateur in New Rochelle, sent in the following info via ARRL section manager Pete Cecere, N2YJZ:

Here is an update on what's going on with our effort [with the NY State Legislature]. First, many thanks to those that sent photos of ham towers (at least the ones that are not too big). These photos have been forwarded to our contacts in the legislature and hopefully will serve their intended purpose, that is, to clearly depict a typical ham tower in a typical ham setting.

On Monday, April 22, Frank Fallon, Ray Wemple, Tom Carruba, and I, traveled to the State Capitol in Albany for several purposes. One, to accept resolutions issued by the NY State Assembly and Senate that thanked amateur radio operators for their 9/11 communications efforts, and two, to lobby for our bills in both houses of the legislature. We were able to accomplish both tasks.

Our lobbying efforts made considerable progress also. The Assembly Local Government Committee Chairman, John Sweeney, committed to releasing our bill from his committee next week. We expect it will go to the Rules Committee, (Assembly Speaker Silver), soon thereafter. Clearly, the 9/11 resolutions created higher visibility for our bills, which is just what we wanted.

On the Senate side, Sen. Volker said to us that he wanted this bill passed this year and he will work towards that end. We are still working tirelessly in our lobbying effort and will keep you posted. All the hard work [done] to allow us to get this far, dotting the i's and crossing the t's, was well worth it...Please invite your Assemblyman, State Senator and Congressman/U.S. Senators to Field Day this year.

***May Flowers are Blooming:
It Can Only Mean that Field Day is Coming!
Have Fun While Improving Readiness
At Field Day, June 22-23 at
Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck***

THE WECAGRAM

Editor: Mike Arrow, K2NR

The WECAGRAM is the official newsletter of the Westchester Emergency Communications Association, Inc., a Special Service Club affiliated with the ARRL, ARES, the Westchester County Office of Disaster and Emergency Services, RACES, and the American Red Cross, and is a member of the Westchester County Emergency Medical Services Council.

Any questions, comments, items for Swap and Shop, commercial advertising, suggestions, contributions and letters for inclusion should be sent to the editor at wecagram@weca.org or via postal mail at 2 Edna Place, New Rochelle, NY 10804-2516.

Submissions via e-mail to wecagram@weca.org would be greatly appreciated. Submissions may be edited for style and space.

The deadline for inclusion in the newsletter is the third Monday of the preceding month. Timely publication relies on prompt submissions.

All submissions are expressly the opinion of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of WECA, its officers, directors or the editor.

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WECA wishes to exchange newsletters with other clubs. All clubs wishing to receive the WECAGRAM in exchange for copies of their publications should contact the editor.

WECA Officers and Directors: July 2001-June 2002

OFFICERS:

President	Stanley Rothman, WA2NRV
Executive VP	Robert Muller, KC2FYZ
VP/General Counsel	Michael J. Weitzner, N2EJI
Treasurer	Andrew R. Farber, N4OOX
Secretary	Milton A. Galamison, KC2GWK
Trustee	Paul S. Vydareny, WB2VUK
President Emeritus	Joseph Brown, KB2NBN

DIRECTORS:

Activities	Jim Faulkner, N2WQG
County Liaison	Raymond Albanese, N2FXU
Digital Modes	Richard L. Benda, WB2QJA
Director-at-Large	Sanford H. Fried, N2SF
Education	Efrem Acosta, W2CZ
Emergency Services	Thomas R. Raffaelli, WB2NHC
Engineering	Robert A. Wilson, N2DVQ
Membership	Angelina R. Morgante, KC2COR
Newsletter Editor	Michael M. Arrow, K2NR
Public Relations	David J. Weiss, N2OGK
Public Service	Robert Kantor, N2TSE
Repeater Operations	Dwight P. Smith, N2FMC

WECA gladly accepts donations of equipment in new or used condition (e.g. from estates). Please contact WECA by e-mail, postal mail or telephone for further information.

WECA operates the following repeaters under call sign **WB2ZII/R**. All repeaters use PL 2A (114.8 Hz).

147.060(+), 224.400(-) and 447.475(-) MHz

The WECAGRAM is available on-line at:
<http://www.weca.org/wecagram>

Views from the Shack #21 Late WECAGRAMS: Lessons Learned

First, apologies are due to the entire WECA membership: the WECAGRAM has been late for several months, and mailing glitches have further delayed receipt of our erstwhile publication. Publishing a quality newsletter is a time-consuming effort, and I sincerely hope that the results are worth the (unfortunately unavoidable) wait. Team WECAGRAM is making every effort to correct the preparation and publication problems plaguing the newsletter, and readers' patience will be much appreciated.

Every major endeavor made, whether it is publishing a WECAGRAM or building a huge public work, is a series of successes and failures. The "lessons learned" from the analysis of problems can lead not only to preventing future problems, but actually to make processes work better. What lessons, then, has Team WECAGRAM learned?

First, the WECAGRAM needs to move forthrightly into the 21st Century. Paper publication is the single biggest WECA expense as well as a heavily time-consuming effort in arranging for printing and mailing of issues. Hams are communicators first and foremost, and electronic distribution would save your club hugely in money and effort, as well as allow you to see your newsletter in living color! Peter Johnson, N2TFC, WECA's devoted Webmaster, has redesigned the club web pages and posts the WECAGRAM as soon as the editor transmits it in a highly readable format. Please ask for e-mail distribution.

Second, the WECAGRAM cannot be a successful club publication without written contributions by WECA membership. Diminishing submissions by members have required the combing of the Internet and other amateur publications for more and more stories, adding to the time necessary to publish and reducing the "local content" of the newsletter. The WECAGRAM cannot reflect the interests of its members without hearing from them. In particular, reporters are needed to cover our public service events as well as WECA's contacts with local government and the community-at-large. This had been less of an issue in the past, when more members shared their experiences in writing with WECAGRAM readership.

I have been very pleased to see that amateur radio participation, at least in our area, has not deteriorated into the exclusive province of old men. (Although all male hams, regardless of age, have referred to each other as "old man.") It is exciting that new hams—as well as former hams returning to the fold—revivify our hobby and our club. New hams are stepping up to the plate and actively participating in club functions, including the assumption of publishing the WECAGRAM shortly. For the WECAGRAM—and the club—to prosper, let's hear from the "OM's" and the "YL's" too!
73, Mike K2NR

From the President... By Stan Rothman, WA2NRV

It looks as if we might get our May flowers. Hopefully the rain will continue to fill the watersheds and make the grass green. Of course, we don't need it on weekends when we have WECA programs scheduled.

If you have not scheduled a slot with Jim for WECAFest or Robert for the walk, you should do it now. You can even pick an area that piques your interest for Field Day.

You do not have much time left to throw your hat in the ring for a board position with WECA. The nominations close at the end of the May meeting. The nominating committee K2NR, K2ZVI, and WA2KHR have worked long hours to provide a slate to lead our club into the future.

I want to remind you that we have our ELMER program in effect. If you want help in any area, contact Fran N2OLU. He is also in charge of our loan closet. We do have some equipment available for loan.

Peter K2MMT mentioned another area that is available to members during his presentation on QRP: life membership. It is available for payment of dues for 20 years at the current rate or for a substantial donation of equipment. This does not apply to the officers of the club as the board thought it might be a conflict of interest. We can use systems such as networked computers for Field Day and emergency services. This applies to any equipment the club can use to operate more efficiently.

The board decided not to offer the Anderson power connectors to the membership. If you would like to purchase them on your own, we recommend that these connectors be used on all your equipment and power sources. Jim N2WQG will be buying some and, if you want to get together with him for a bulk purchase, you might save some money.

We all wish a quick recovery to Sandy N2SF. He is in White Plains Hospital for a return trip. I guess he likes the food or the nurses. You can check on the air to see if he is still there when you read this. He would be glad to speak to members, even via the phone.

Check Robert N2TSE's column for the dates of WECA functions.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday May 13th at the County Center for the next WECA membership meeting.

73, Stan WA2NRV

*"Make a Date to Laminate" Your Valued License
It costs just 50 cents. Contact Robert N2TSE.*

Don't Be a Bouncing Baby! Keep Your E-Mail Address Current

Peter Johnson, N2TFC, our WECA Webmaster reports a failure to deliver (bounce back) to the e-mail addresses listed in WECA club records for the following members:

**AA2TS, ASSOC9
K2MMT, KB2JKS, KB2YTX, KC2CLZ, KC2DYT,
KC2FVU, KC2IHI, KD2OG
N2DRO, N2EYX, N2FSO, N2FSP, N2FSQ, NF2E, N2JTX,
N2SLA, N2TTO, NY4Z
W1MHT, W2BTF, WB2AFC, WB2MEF, WB2NVR**

Please check that your correct e-mail address is on file with WECA. If it is not, please send an e-mail with the correct e-mail address to membership@weca.org. This will help your club serve you better (and get you advance notification of the availability of the WECAGRAM if you have indicated you want this).

More E-mail News

Webmaster Peter Johnson, N2TFC reports that e-mail notifications of the availability of the WECAGRAM will now come to subscribers from the new e-mail address wecaclub@cloud9.net instead of Peter's personal e-mail address. Please make sure that neither your computer (nor you) assumes this e-mail address will be sending you spam!! You can also make inquiries regarding your subscription (or add your name to the subscription list) to the WECAGRAM notification service via this e-mail address.

New WECA Website Design Now Up! By Peter Johnson, N2TFC WECA Webmaster

Please visit our newly designed and updated web site at <http://www.weca.org> for current and upcoming WECA events. The page is best viewed using Microsoft Internet Explorer and a screen resolution of 800 x 600. The new page is a "frames" type of page, so some older browsers may not be able to view the page correctly.

Please send me any comments, corrections or suggestions to n2tfc@weca.org.

[Grant Nishanian, KC2FNU, sent the following quote from Dispatch Monthly Magazine, February 2002, Version 16.2:](#)

"The Independence (Mo.) fire department said that it has installed new RACES amateur radio equipment in its emergency communications center."

It's good to see amateurs being recognized as part of the emergency communications team!



Next Membership Meetings:
Monday, May 13 at 7:30 pm
Monday, June 10 at 7:30 pm
County Center, White Plains
ELECTIONS of Directors!!

From the Membership Director...
By Angelina Morgante, KC2COR

Please welcome new member Joe Clifton, N9NIL, of New Rochelle. (Please watch this space as Joe's new call sign is expected soon!)

Please don't forget to let me know whenever your e-mail address or call sign changes, whether or not you utilize the weca.org reflector service. This will allow quicker response and better membership service to you, our devoted WECA members.

My address is: Angelina R. Morgante, P. O. Box 253, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522, or e-mail to kc2cor@weca.org. Thanks for your help!

73, Angelina KC2COR

From the Public Service Director...
By Robert Kantor, N2TSE

WECA turned out in force on April 28 to provide communications for the March of Dimes walk in White Plains, which was part of a national campaign. A total of 28 ham volunteers came: AB2JD; K2 DFJ,MIT; N2 AMP,CAV,CJN,DVQ,FMC,QJQ,TFC,TJE,TSE,TWN; & MOM KB2JKC; KA2 BRH,KCR; KC2 CLZ,COQ,COR,ESU,GWK,ILK,IRK; WA2NRV; WB2 IAE & son,NHC; YARC member N2OMN & QSY member KC2BUV.

Mark your calendars with the following WECA public service events, and plan on participating in at least one event:
 June 2nd: American Diabetes bike tour "Tour de Cure" at Pace University in Pleasantville.
 Aug. 3rd: New York Philharmonic at Westchester Community College.

Want to see your call on this page?
Upgrade your license!

WECA sponsors VE exam sessions every other month. The next WECA VE exam session will be held on:
Thursday, June 13th, 7:00 pm, at the
 Westchester County Fire Training Center
 4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY.
 Good luck from Sandy N2SF and the WECA VE team.



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RUSH -- DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY